



Brownfields 2009 Grant Fact Sheet

Detroiter's Working for Environmental Justice, Detroit, MI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

Detroiter's Working for Environmental Justice (DWEJ) was selected to receive a job training grant. The Detroit community (population 951,270) is 85 percent African-American, and poverty and unemployment rates in the city are the highest in the nation. According



Job Training Grant

\$200,000

EPA has selected Detroiter's Working for Environmental Justice (DWEJ) for a job training grant. DWEJ plans to train and graduate 80 students, place a minimum of 60 graduates in environmental jobs, and track graduates for two to three years. The 480-hour environmental technician training program will be offered four times over a two-year period. Courses will include HAZWOPER training and certification, lead and asbestos abatement, and site assessment training, as well as green job training courses in energy audits, geothermal power, and phytoremediation. Primary trainers include the United Auto Workers, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and the Environmental Training Center. Students will be recruited from among unemployed former auto workers, returning citizens, and unemployed residents of metropolitan Detroit. DWEJ will work with its community partners, training entities, and potential employers to place graduates in environmental jobs.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

Linda Morgan, EPA Region 5

312-886-4747

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Detroiter's Working for Environmental Justice, MI

313-833-3935

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Detroit is home to 23 percent of the state's reported toxic releases. With the decline in the auto and other manufacturing industries, the city has been left with an abundance of brownfields. Recent reports indicate that the demand for skilled environmental workers is increasing in Michigan. In addition, investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency are expected to result in more than 30,000 jobs in Michigan. These developments represent opportunities for trained environmental technicians.